

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/065,221

Examiner

Anthony S. Addy

Applicant(s)

WILSON, ROBERT H.

Art Unit

2681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/08/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-8 and 13.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

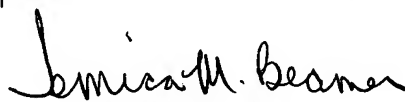
* Certified copies not received: _____.

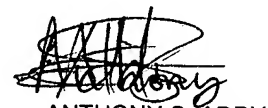
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TEMICA BEAMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER


ANTHONY S. ADDY
09/16/2005

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1, 3-8 and 13 are allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The present invention is directed to an andon communication system and method, and more particularly, a wireless system and method for using such a system in manufacturing, assembly and other industrial settings.

The instant invention with respect to claim 1, teaches a portable communication system for a production facility, identifying the uniquely distinct features "wherein the transmitter station includes two or more transmitters, two or more transmitter lights, and two or more switches that are connected in two or more parallel circuits, and wherein the receiver station has two or more receivers, and two or more receiver lights that are illuminated, and wherein a tone generator is provided for sending an audible signal when the switches are actuated."

The closest prior art, **Shank, U.S. Patent Number 5,828,294** teaches a portable communication system for a production facility comprising: at least one transmitter station that is adapted to be set up at a first location in a production facility, the transmitter station having at least one transmitter that is operable to transmit a wireless signal, a transmitter light mounted proximate the transmitter station and wired to the transmitter so that it is illuminated when the transmitter transmits the wireless signal, a

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switch for controlling the transmitter and the light to indicate that service is required at the location; a receiver station that is adapted to be set up at a second location in a production facility, the receiver station having at least one receiver for receiving the wireless signal from the transmitter, a receiver light mounted proximate the receiver station, and a sound generator; and wherein the transmitter station and receiver station are portable in that they may be set up for immediate use by simply connecting the transmitter station to the first power source and connecting the receiver station to the second power source, and wherein actuation of the switch causes the transmitter light of the transmitter station to be illuminated and the transmitter to transmit the wireless signal to the receiver that in turn illuminates the receiver light and activates the sound generator. However, Shank fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations in combination with all the recited limitations of claim 1 obvious, over any of the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

The instant invention with respect to claim 13, teaches a portable communication system for a production facility, identifying the uniquely distinct features "wherein the transmitter station includes two or more transmitters, two or more transmitter lights, and two or more switches that are connected in two or more parallel circuits, and wherein the receiver station has two or more receivers, and two or more receiver lights that are illuminated, and wherein a tone generator is provided for sending an audible signal when the switches are actuated; and wherein the transmitter has two or more channels, two or more transmitter lights, and two or more switches that are connected in two or more parallel circuits, and wherein the receiver is capable of receiving signals on two

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ore more channels, and two or more receiver lights that are illuminated, and wherein the tone generator is provided for sending an audible signal."

The closest prior art, **Shank, U.S. Patent Number 5,828,294** teaches a portable communication system for a production facility comprising: at least one transmitter station that is adapted to be set up at a first location in a production facility, the transmitter station having at least one transmitter that is operable to transmit a wireless signal, a transmitter light mounted proximate the transmitter station and wired to the transmitter so that it is illuminated when the transmitter transmits the wireless signal, a switch for controlling the transmitter and the light to indicate that service is required at the location; a receiver station that is adapted to be set up at a second location in a production facility, the receiver station having at least one receiver for receiving the wireless signal from the transmitter, a receiver light mounted proximate the receiver station, and a sound generator; and wherein the transmitter station and receiver station are portable in that they may be set up for immediate use by simply connecting the transmitter station to the first power source and connecting the receiver station to the second power source, and wherein actuation of the switch causes the transmitter light of the transmitter station to be illuminated and the transmitter to transmit the wireless signal to the receiver that in turn illuminates the receiver light and activates the sound generator. However, Shank fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations in combination with all the recited limitations of claim 13 obvious, over any of the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

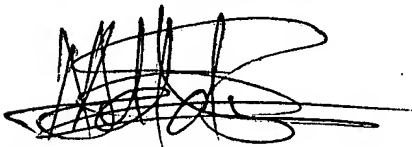
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Conclusion

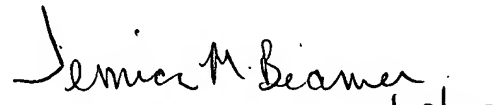
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony S. Addy whose telephone number is 571-272-7795. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Anthony S. Addy
September 16, 2005


TEMICA BEAMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER 9/19/05